
SENATE BILL 6294

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Stanford, Kuderer, Lias, and Valdez

Read first time 01/23/24. Referred to Committee on Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to the unlawful trade of fur products; adding a
2 new chapter to Title 19 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an
3 effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that eliminating the
6 sale of fur products in the state of Washington will decrease demand
7 for cruel products; reduce public health risks, including risks to
8 consumers from toxic chemicals used to treat fur; protect consumers
9 from false and misleading advertising and labeling of fur products;
10 promote community awareness of animal welfare; promote environmental
11 awareness of animal welfare; alleviate environmental burdens; and
12 enhance the reputation of the state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
14 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
15 otherwise.

16 (1) "Fur" means any animal skin or part thereof with hair,
17 fleece, or fur fibers attached, either in its raw or processed state.

18 (2)(a) "Fur product" means any article of clothing or covering
19 for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory including, but not
20 limited to, handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves,

1 shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys or trinkets, and home
2 accessories and decor, that is made in whole or in part of fur.

3 (b) "Fur product" does not include any of the following:

4 (i) An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into
5 leather, which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber
6 completely removed;

7 (ii) Cowhide, deerskin, goatskin, or sheepskin with hair attached
8 thereto; or

9 (iii) The pelt or skin of an animal that is preserved through
10 taxidermy or for the purpose of taxidermy.

11 (3) "Nonprofit organization" means any corporation that is
12 organized under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) that is created for
13 charitable, religious, philanthropic, educational, or similar
14 purposes.

15 (4) "Taxidermy" means the practice of preparing, stuffing, and
16 mounting the skin, in lifelike form, of any deceased fish, reptile,
17 amphibian, bird, or mammal.

18 (5) "Ultimate consumer" means an individual who buys a fur
19 product for their own use or for the use of another, but not for
20 resale or trade.

21 (6) "Used fur product" means a fur product that has been worn or
22 used by an ultimate consumer.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) It is unlawful to sell, offer for
24 sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary
25 or nonmonetary consideration a fur product in the state. For the
26 purposes of this section, the sale of a fur product is deemed to
27 occur in Washington if the seller is located in Washington or the
28 buyer takes physical possession of the fur product in Washington.

29 (2) The prohibition set forth in subsection (1) of this section
30 does not apply to the following:

31 (a) A used fur product offered for sale by an individual but
32 excluding a retail transaction; a nonprofit organization; or a second
33 hand store, including a pawn shop;

34 (b) A fur product:

35 (i) The fur of which was obtained from an animal through lawful
36 trapping or hunting; and

37 (ii) When sold in a face-to-face transaction at a place such as a
38 residence, craft fair, or other location used on a temporary or
39 short-term basis, by the person who trapped or hunted the animal, or

1 by an immediate family member of the person who hunted or trapped the
2 animal, where the revenue from the sale of the fur products is not
3 the primary source of income of such person; or

4 (c) Any activity expressly authorized by federal law.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Every person who violates any
6 provision of this chapter shall forfeit and pay a civil penalty of
7 not more than \$1,000.

8 (2) Each fur product that constitutes a violation of this section
9 must be treated as a separate violation.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
11 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
12 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
13 persons or circumstances is not affected.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect January 1, 2025.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 4 and 6 of this act
16 constitute a new chapter in Title 19 RCW.

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